

Hospital Advisory Group Meeting


May 6, 1999, 1:30 p. m.

Meeting Summary

Next meeting: Thursday, August 12, 1999 1:00 p. m. IDEM Shadeland Office - 2525 N Shadeland

- Dave Wintz announced that Governor O'Bannon appointed Ms. Lori F. Kaplan to be the next Commissioner of IDEM. Kaplan replaces John Hamilton, who resigned in April. Kaplan comes to IDEM from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, where she was Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation.
- Mr. Larry Doucet, from Doucet and Mainka, one of the country's leading hospital environmental consulting firms, gave a presentation on the MACT standard for hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators. Larry said there are at least three vendors who are supplying scrubber technology to hospitals that will meet the requirements of the rule. Larry stressed that there are many aspects to consider when determining what to do with hospital incinerators. Larry said that solid state controls are important to consider for incinerator upgrades. It's important to be serious about where the break even point is when studying burning/disposal/recycling of waste. Tipping fees and other cost issues will help determine what waste strategy you will pursue. Each hospital is different and you must consider all factors.

I have enclosed the handout for those who told me they needed one. Please call me at 317/233-1194 if you need a copy of the Doucet and Mainka presentation material.

- Mr. Steve Smith from St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, next spoke about his experience with the rule. St. Vincent's incinerator is 10-12 years old. They burn about 3 million pounds per year. They have conducted a comprehensive analysis of waste generation and are waiting on the final report from the consulting firm. Preliminary results indicate that their incinerator upgrade could cost between one and two million dollars. They have not made a decision on whether they will continue to burn or not. Steve said the process is lengthy and the decision-making process is not an easy one. It's one of the hardest decisions the hospital is facing.
- We discussed some miscellaneous items of interest:
 - re-use of old hospital equipment - Intervol - see enclosed web site info -  <http://12.6.111.86/intervol/content.htm>
 - special waste rule as it relates to incinerator ash - it's a good idea to limit the amount of rainwater in your ash. Special Waste landfills can reject

material that is too wet to pass the "paint filter test." Call me for details on the special waste rules.

- Governor O'Bannon's Children's Initiative - lead based paint in homes - information is enclosed
- Model Medical Waste Management Plan Subgroup - we will be meeting to discuss the writing of the model plan
- AHA/US EPA Memorandum of Agreement and Mercury Reduction/Elimination in hospitals
- We discussed disposal of outdated pharmaceuticals

There is an article about hospital incinerators on page 9 of the latest edition of *Indiana Environment* - a copy is enclosed.